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SENATE MEMORIAL 3

48TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SPECIAL SESSION, 2008

INTRODUCED BY

Lidio G. Rainaldi

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF MCKINLEY COUNTY AND THE REHOBOTH MCKINLEY CHRISTIAN HOSPITAL TO IDENTIFY AND PROPOSE A COOPERATIVE EFFORT TO SUPPORT THE NEW MEXICO CANCER CENTER OF GALLUP IN ORDER TO PRESERVE ACCESS TO CANCER TREATMENT FOR GALLUP AND THE SURROUNDING AREA.

WHEREAS, the New Mexico cancer center, which opened one year ago, is a private practice center providing cancer treatment services in Gallup; and

WHEREAS, there are one hundred twenty thousand people in a three-county area in need of these services; and

WHEREAS, the center is able to receive reimbursement from medicare, medicaid and the Indian health service; however, the reimbursement rates provided by these sources are inadequate to cover the cost of providing cancer treatment services; and

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1 WHEREAS, there is a lack of commercial payers to reimburse
2 for cancer treatment services in this area of the state; and

3 WHEREAS, hospitals receive more advantageous reimbursement
4 rates for services due to group purchasing arrangements, better
5 pricing for cancer drugs and other economies of scale and
6 could, therefore, operate the New Mexico cancer center of
7 Gallup in a profitable manner, thereby preserving access to
8 cancer treatment services in this area; and

9 WHEREAS, Rehoboth McKinley Christian hospital and the
10 board of county commissioners of McKinley county have expressed
11 a willingness to explore avenues to support the New Mexico
12 cancer center in Gallup for this purpose;

13 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE
14 OF NEW MEXICO that the board of county commissioners of
15 McKinley county and the Rehoboth McKinley Christian hospital be
16 requested to identify and propose a cooperative relationship,
17 including the potential purchase of the New Mexico cancer
18 center of Gallup, to support and preserve access to cancer
19 treatment for Gallup and the surrounding area; and

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the board of county
21 commissioners of McKinley county and the Rehoboth McKinley
22 Christian hospital work cooperatively with the New Mexico
23 cancer center of Gallup to explore similar relationships in
24 other parts of the state, including the potential for state
25 funding; and

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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the proposal they develop be
2 presented to the appropriate legislative body for
3 consideration; and

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
5 transmitted to the board of county commissioners of McKinley
6 county, the Rehoboth McKinley Christian hospital and the New
7 Mexico cancer center of Gallup.